



## WASHINGTON COUNTY AGRICULTURAL PROFILE

Washington County is located in Western Maryland, bordered by Pennsylvania on the North and West Virginia to the South. It ranks ninth in size among the twenty-three counties, with 293,223 acres in land area.

Washington County is the heart of the fruit industry in Maryland. Apple and peach growers harvest over 26,000,000 pounds annually. Dairying is the principle livestock enterprise. Milk cows number 16,400 head, ranking second in the state. In addition to milk and fruit, the chief agricultural commodities are cereal grains.

A rich heritage of agricultural and historical significance adds to the attractions for tourists. Among these attractions is the Civil War site Antietam Battlefield located in the Sharpsburg area. Approximately, 350,000 visitors frequent these grounds annually. In addition, many state and private campgrounds and other recreational areas are accessible to visitors to the county.

## WASHINGTON AGRICULTURAL STATISTICS

| Crop            | Year | Unit  | Acreage Harvested | Average Yield | Total Production |
|-----------------|------|-------|-------------------|---------------|------------------|
| Corn for Grain  | 1997 | Bu.   | 16,000            | 72.7          | 1,162,500        |
|                 | 1998 |       | 14,600            | 102.0         | 1,488,900        |
|                 | 1999 |       | 12,500            | 70.1          | 876,300          |
| Corn for Silage | 1997 | Tons. | 15,800            | 10.8          | 170,000          |
|                 | 1998 |       | 16,100            | 12.5          | 201,200          |
|                 | 1999 |       | 19,400            | 10.0          | 194,000          |
| Soybeans        | 1997 | Bu.   | 11,200            | 35.4          | 396,200          |
|                 | 1998 |       | 7,400             | 35.3          | 261,000          |
|                 | 1999 |       | 6,400             | 25.7          | 164,700          |
| Wheat           | 1997 | Bu.   | 6,500             | 56.3          | 366,000          |
|                 | 1998 |       | 6,300             | 49.5          | 312,000          |
|                 | 1999 |       | 6,100             | 57.7          | 351,800          |
| Hay             | 1997 | Tons. | 19,300            | 2.5           | 48,000           |
|                 | 1998 |       | 19,900            | 3.9           | 77,300           |
|                 | 1999 |       | 21,000            | 2.9           | 60,000           |
| Barley          | 1997 | Bu.   | 5,100             | 67.4          | 344,000          |
|                 | 1998 |       | 5,200             | 65.6          | 341,000          |
|                 | 1999 |       | 4,700             | 77.0          | 362,100          |

### Crop Production Rank among MD. Counties, 1999

|       |    |          |    |
|-------|----|----------|----|
| Corn  | 14 | Barley   | 11 |
| Wheat | 12 | Soybeans | 17 |
| Hay   | 3  |          |    |

### Livestock Inventories Rank among MD. Counties, 1997 <sup>1</sup>

|                 |                |
|-----------------|----------------|
| Cattle          | 2              |
| Hogs            | 1              |
| Sheep           | 6              |
| Milk Production | 2 <sup>5</sup> |

# WASHINGTON AGRICULTURAL STATISTICS

| Farm Numbers & Size <sup>1</sup> | 1987    | 1992    | 1997    |
|----------------------------------|---------|---------|---------|
| Number of Farms                  | 906     | 809     | 768     |
| Average Size (acres)             | 152     | 153     | 164     |
| Land in Farms (acres)            | 137,529 | 123,932 | 126,292 |

| Livestock (Number on Farms) <sup>1</sup> | 1987   | 1992   | 1997   |
|--|--------|--------|--------|
| Cattle Inventory Jan. 1                  | 42,821 | 41,875 | 41,519 |
| Hog Inventory Dec. 1                     | 22,284 | 9,889  | 10,575 |
| Sheep Inventory Jan. 1                   | 1,266  | 1,897  | 1,451  |

| Average Number of Milk Cows | 1997   | 1998   | 1999   |
|-----------------------------|--------|--------|--------|
|                             | 16,500 | 16,700 | 16,400 |

| Milk Production - 1,000 lbs. | 1997    | 1998    | 1999    |
|------------------------------|---------|---------|---------|
|                              | 246,400 | 253,000 | 256,000 |

| Value of Sales <sup>1</sup>             | 1987   | 1992   | 1997   |
|---|--------|--------|--------|
| All Products                            | 54,091 | 58,341 | 60,604 |
| Crops                                   | 6,432  | 9,451  | 12,797 |
| Livestock, Poultry and Poultry Products | 47,659 | 48,890 | 47,807 |

<sup>1</sup> Source: Census of Agriculture, NASS.

<sup>2</sup> Not published to avoid disclosure of individual operations.

<sup>3</sup> Unranked - Data not published.

<sup>4</sup> Revised.

<sup>5</sup> 1999.

\* Acreage too small to publish.

## MONTHLY WEATHER DATA - 1999

| MONTH     | AVERAGE TEMP. (F) | NORMAL 1961-1990 | TOTAL RAINFALL (INCHES) | NORMAL 1961-1990 |
|-----------|-------------------|------------------|-------------------------|------------------|
| January   | ** 00.0           | 28.3             | 0.00                    | 2.42             |
| February  | ** 00.0           | 30.6             | ** 0.00                 | 2.55             |
| March     | ** 00.0           | 40.7             | 0.00                    | 3.08             |
| April     | ** 00.0           | 50.4             | ** 0.00                 | 3.23             |
| May       | ** 00.0           | 60.2             | ** 0.00                 | 3.69             |
| June      | ** 00.0           | 68.5             | ** 0.00                 | 3.41             |
| July      | ** 00.0           | 73.0             | ** 0.00                 | 3.67             |
| August    | ** 00.0           | 71.6             | ** 0.00                 | 3.15             |
| September | ** 00.0           | 64.5             | ** 0.00                 | 3.18             |
| October   | ** 00.0           | 52.8             | ** 0.00                 | 3.16             |
| November  | ** 00.0           | 43.4             | ** 0.00                 | 3.00             |
| December  | ** 00.0           | 33.3             | ** 0.00                 | 2.60             |
| Annual    | ** 00.0           | 52.1             | ** 00.00                | 37.14            |

\*\* Insufficient or partial data.

Number frost free days for 1999 \*\*

Normal frost free days 1951-1980 182 (1961-1990 Not available)

Highest temperature \*\*

Lowest temperature \*\*

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